

BERKSHIRE COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Bylaws

I. Purpose

- A. The BCYSL shall provide at least a Fall and Spring league for competitive town teams. The winning teams in each age group in the Spring season are eligible to represent BCYSL at the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC).

II. Age Levels & Divisions

- A. **Age Levels** - Players will be grouped in age according to USYSA guidelines. The BCYSL age divisions are:

- Boys and Girls under 18 years of age
- Boys and Girls under 16 years of age
- Boys and Girls under 14 years of age
- Boys and Girls under 12 years of age
- Boys and Girls under 10 years of age

- B. **Divisions** - BCYSL will offer 2 divisions in the U12 and U14 age groups:

- The **MTOC/Competitive Division** will be eligible and compete for berths in Mass Youth Soccer's Massachusetts Tournament of Champion. Teams in this division will play a 6-8 game season followed by a playoff system to determine final berth awards. For the Spring Season, the maximum team size is 18 players plus 3 alternates for U14. All 21 players can play during league play; however only 18 players can play at MTOC and at most MYSA sanctioned tournaments. Max team size for U12 is 16 during league play, but roster size must be reduced to 15 for MTOC. There is no roster limit for the Fall Season.
- If a team in the MTOC division, earns and then declines a berth to MTOC's, the club will be fined \$150.00, in addition to any fees they already contributed toward that berth.
- The **County/Developmental Division** is nominally the "developmental" division and teams playing in this division will not be eligible for MTOC. No minimum or maximum number of players.

Towns should self-select for the appropriate division, however BCYSL reserves the right to place teams in a division based on a review of team history, strength, and other considerations.

III. Affiliations

- A. **Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Affiliation (MYSA)** - All players, coaches, assistant coaches, coordinators and any other individuals working within BCYSL and its participating clubs and teams must be affiliated with MYSA and all the appropriate paperwork and fees must be remitted to MYSA for the current season.
- B. **CORI Program Compliance** - All adult personnel must have completed and submitted the required CORI Form to MYSA in accordance with the policies set forth by MYSA under the CORI Program.
- C. **Zero Tolerance Compliance** - All players, coaches, assistant coaches, coordinators and any other individual working within the clubs of the BCYSL must sign and have on file a Zero Tolerance Policy form with their respective club.
- D. **Clubs** - All clubs participating in the BCYSL must be represented by both an affiliated Club Coordinator and Assistant Club Coordinator without exception. At least one of these individuals or a designated representative is expected to attend both the pre-season meeting and the Team Entry Deadline/Registration meeting. Failure to do so will result in a \$25 fine to the club and possible exclusion from League play. It is strongly suggested that a Club Coordinator be in attendance at the Annual General Meeting each year. It is the goal of BCYSL to have one club per town. In the

situations where more than one club already exists in a town, that/those clubs are grandfathered until dissolution.

E. Coaches – It is strongly encouraged that all coaches complete the online G-Course.

IV. Rosters

A. Team Size - For the spring season, the maximum team size is 18 players plus 3 alternates for U14. All 21 players can play during league play; however only 18 players can play at MTOC and at most MYSA sanctioned tournaments. Max team size for U12 is 16 during league play, but roster size must be reduced to 15 for MTOC. There is no roster limit for the Fall Season.

B. Gender –Rosters must consist of all players of the same gender. Rosters for U10 – U16 are single gender unless granted a waiver by the BCYSL Executive Board on a case-by-case basis.

C. Roster Changes - Any roster changes must be consistent with MYSA rules, and communicated to and approved by the Registrar prior to the change. A check made out to BCYSL in the amount of \$10 must accompany each roster change request after the start of a season. Rosters for MTOC must be finalized with the BCYSL Registrar by June 1st. No changes will be approved after that date.

D. Dual Rostered Players - All MAPLE or other Premier League players playing on a BCYSL team must have this information noted in the far right column on the MYSA roster (please use an asterisk*) Dual rostered players must be age appropriate (U14 and under) and not competing towards the same tournament.

E. Out of Town Players - All players are required to play with the club representing the town of their residence unless they are granted a waiver. (See V. C) If and when the league has a U8 division, no waivers will be granted for that particular division.

F. Waivers - All waivers will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and will be determined & granted by the BCYSL Executive Board, whose decision in the matter will be final. In general, school districting will be a greater factor than postal districting in making a determination. Waivers are in effect for one year, August 1, to July 31 each year as long as the condition for the waiver remains unchanged. If and when the league has a U8 division, no waivers will be granted for that particular division. Waivers may be applied for and approved by the BCYSL Executive Board under the following circumstances:

- (i) School Choice - If a player attends school in another town, he/she shall be granted a waiver by the BCYSL Executive Board in order to play on the team with his/her schoolmates. If the releasing club does not sign the waiver, BCYSL Executive Board may require proof of school enrollment prior to approving the waiver.
- (ii) Stranding - If there is no team in the town of a player's residence for his/her age and gender division or if he/she has been cut from the club representing his/her town/district then they may be granted a waiver to play for-an adjacent town. In the case where a player has been cut or excluded from a program because of late registration or a lack of attendance at that program's tryouts then no waiver will be granted.
- (iii) Cut Players - At the BCYSL Executive Board's discretion, a waiver can be renewed automatically each season when a player has been cut from a Club and is then waived to play for another Club. The Club that cut the player has relinquished any/all future rights to that player. The player in this situation has the option to stay with his/her new Club or return to the Club that cut him/her originally.

V. Registration

A. Rosters - All rosters must be submitted to the League Registrar on the official MYSA roster form,

typed and in duplicate. The rosters must be signed by the head coach and the club's registrar. All players must be listed in alphabetical order by last name and with uniform numbers. If MAPLE player is dual rostered please put * next to their name on league roster. This Roster form must be submitted at the mandatory pre-season Registration Meeting.

- B. Player Passes** - Rosters must be accompanied by the player passes listed on the roster, including the coaches, or they will not be processed. All passes must have current photos and signatures or they will not be processed. The BCYSL Registrar will laminate all passes.
- C. Out of Town Players** - Any players having a listed residence different from the town that their club represents must have a completed waiver. (See IV. E.)
- D. Zero Tolerance Forms** - All players listed on a roster must also have a completed Zero Tolerance Form which is held by the players' Club.

VI. Schedules

A. Game Changes:

- (i) All teams are allowed 1 game change within the reschedule change time frame prior to the start of the season. The Town Coordinators will be notified prior to each season of the deadline date for reschedules.
 - (a) Any team making a request to cancel and/or reschedule a game after the designated reschedule change time frame, must have the Town Coordinator submit a request to the Scheduler/President for review. If permission is granted, the reschedule will incur a \$25.00 reschedule fee.
- (ii) Any team attempting to change a scheduled game by directly contacting their opponent and/or assigned referee shall be fined \$200 and brought up before BCYSL's Executive Board for consideration of disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and/or ban from participation in BCYSL.
- (iii) If a referee is contacted directly by anyone other than the Referee Assignor for game changes, they are to decline the request and report it to the Referee Assignor immediately. The Referee Assignor is the **only** person that is to be contacted for game/schedule change(s).
- (iv) Games shall be played as scheduled, unless:
 - (a) There is no referee present;
 - (b) The field is unplayable due to weather; and/or
 - (c) There is unsafe field equipment.

B. Notification of a Cancelled Game

A game can only be cancelled due to weather related issues. The home coach is responsible for notifying the opposing coach and referee of a cancellation no later than two hours prior to the scheduled start of the game. If such notice is not made, then only the referee can cancel a game and will make their determination at the field. The home team will be expected to take "the lead" on rescheduling.

C. Referee Compensation

- (i) Cancelled Games - For any cancellation that is made prior to the start of the game, the official will be compensated 50% of the normal fee by BCYSL at the conclusion of the season.
- (ii) No Show Teams - The official will be paid their normal fee by the BCYSL at the end of the season

- (iii) Abandoned Match - The official will be paid their normal fee by the BCYSL at the end of the season.

D. Abandoned Match

Any match that is abandoned after it has started will be subject to review by BCYSL Executive Board.

E. No Show Teams

Any team that does not appear within 15 minutes of a scheduled game will be charged with a forfeit loss (recorded as 3-0), and assessed a \$100 fine. It shall not be a forfeit if a team notifies the opposing coach and all officials at least 72 hours prior to the game of a legitimate need to reschedule.

F. Rescheduling

- (i) Any cancelled game or abandoned match, not played to “official” completion, must be rescheduled.
- (ii) Make-up dates for cancelled games are to be handled by the Club Coordinators for the involved teams and the Referee Assignor. Coaches are expected to work through their Club Coordinators.
- (iii) Rescheduling, but not the actual game, must take place within 7 days of the cancelled game. After 7 days, if the game has not been rescheduled it will be posted as a “NP” or No Play.
- (iv) The home team will be expected to take “the lead” on rescheduling.
- (v) BCYSL’s Executive Board shall be notified of any team avoiding rescheduling in an attempt to gain an advantage in the League’s standings. Such teams shall be assessed a loss, reviewed and subject to fines and/or disciplinary action.
- (vi) If a game is deemed relevant to playoff positioning, the Referee Assignor will automatically reschedule it.

G. No Show Official - In the event of an official not being present at the start of a game, the following provisions exist:

- (i) Do not play game and refer to rescheduling procedures;
- (ii) Play the game as an unofficial “Friendly” and refer to rescheduling procedures;
- (iii) Play with an official that is agreed upon by both coaches, and the game results will stand. Both coaches must sign a scorecard and indicate “Game” or “Friendly” on the scorecard and remit it to their Home Team’s Town Scorekeeper.

VII. Local Playing Rules

A. Rules - Current FIFA International Rules with United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) modifications shall govern play with the exceptions listed herein. If a team is playing in another league, the team shall abide by the constitution and bylaws of that league as appropriate. Officials/Coaches will defer to any medical personnel that attends to an injured player on the field.

B. Game Length & Times

- (i) Games Length – Length of games will be based on age divisions as follows:
 - U18 games will consist of two 40 minute halves
 - U16 games will consist of two 40 minute halves
 - U14 games will consist of two 35 minute halves
 - U12 games will consist of two 30 minute halves
 - U10 games will consist of two 25 minute halves
- (ii) Game Time - Time is running time and time may be extended at the discretion of the referee. No overtime period will be played **except** in playoff situations.
- (iii) Half-Time Interval - The half-time interval shall be 10 minutes unless both coaches request less.
- (iv) Official Game - An official game is one where three-quarters of the game has been played.

C. Substitutions

- (i) The number of substitutions is unlimited;
- (ii) With the consent of the referee, substitutions may be made at the following times:
 - Prior to a throw-in in your favor;
 - Prior to your opponents' throw-in so long as your opponent is also substituting and your sub is already in the midfield substitution area;
 - Prior to a goal kick by either team;
 - After a goal by either team;
 - For an injured player when the referee stops play. The opposing team shall also be permitted an equal number of substitutions; and/or
 - At half-time
- (iii) Substitutions are NOT allowed on corner kicks or free kicks

D. Equipment

- (i) Uniforms -
 - (a) Shirts, Shorts and Socks - Players shall wear uniforms consisting of matching shirts, shorts, and socks. Pants may not be worn in such a manner as to cover shorts or visible under uniform shorts. Exceptions shall be made to this rule only with the approval of the referee.
 - (b) Shin guards are mandatory at all games and practices.
 - (c) Jewelry is not permitted.
 - (d) No player wearing any cast shall be permitted to participate in a BCYSL match.
 - (e) Game Balls - The home team shall provide the referee with an acceptable hand stitched game ball. Teams shall use an official size 5 ball for U14 and above and a size 4 ball for U12 and below. Water absorbent balls (i.e. leather, etc.) shall not be used if significant moisture is present on the playing field.

E. Rosters & Player/Coach Passes

- (i) Rosters/Pass Cards - Coaches shall provide the referee with a copy of the team roster and the pass cards for the players and coaches on that roster prior to the start of the game. If pass cards and rosters are not available at the start of the game the game shall be played as scheduled with a 3-0 forfeit loss recorded for the team without cards and roster unless cards and roster are retrieved and presented by the end of the match.

Referees shall return the pass cards at the conclusion of the game except for pass cards of ejected players or coaches. These will be retained and forwarded directly to the Head Referee.

- (ii) Coaches - A maximum of three coaches are allowed to be on the sidelines during a game.

F. Misconduct

- (i) **General**
Any behavior (player, coach, spectator, and/or referee) that is judged unbecoming or inappropriate shall be referred to the Head Referee for review and action. All on-field behavior whether sanctioned by the referee or not, is subject to review by BCYSL's Executive Board.
- (ii) **Cards**
 - (a) **Yellow Card** - A player receiving a yellow card must leave the field of play but may return at the next legal substitution.
 - (b) **Red Card(s)** – First red card will result in a minimum one (1) game suspension to be served at the next league sanctioned game, including, but not limited to MTOC competition. Additional disciplinary action(s) may be taken once the Head Referee and/or the BCYSL Executive Board review of the incident. The Head Referee will review subsequent red card(s) and, if necessary refer incidents to the BCYSL Executive Board for further disciplinary action.
- (iii) **Coaches**
Any ejection of a coach from a game will result in a minimum one (1) game suspension to be served at the next league sanctioned game, including, but not limited to MTOC competition. Coaches may be issued yellow cards in regards to the Zero Tolerance Policy, which will carry one point against the team. An ejection will result in three points against the team. If a coach is given one yellow card and an ejection from the same match, only three points will be counted. These cards/points will be included in the Team's count in the section entitled "Card Accumulation" in the event of tie breakers for competitions. Additional disciplinary action(s) may be taken upon the Head Referee and/or the BCYSL Executive Board's review of the incident.
- (iv) **Misconduct Reviewed** - All cards and any other misconduct by coaches, players, clubs, referees or spectators, including violations of the Zero Tolerance Policy, will be first reviewed by the Head Referee, with suspensions or bans levied at his/her discretion, subject to review by the BCYSL Executive Board. The Head Referee may include the involved Town Coordinators and has the ability to refer incidents to the Disciplinary Panel. If the Head Referee defers the incident to the Disciplinary Panel, Town Coordinators MUST submit a written description of the incident to the BCYSL Secretary within 48 hours from date of Head Referee's deference. The Secretary will acknowledge receipt of the written description to the Town Coordinators and forward it to all member of the BCYSL Executive Board.
 - (a) The Disciplinary Panel will be appointed by the Executive Board and chaired by the Head Referee. It shall be made up of a minimum of two BCYSL Executive Board Members and will not include any BCYSL Executive Board member who is affiliated with teams involved in the incident, or has personal relationships with anyone involved. Any decisions reached by the Disciplinary Panel shall be submitted in writing to the BCYSL Executive Board and the two Town Coordinators of the two clubs whose teams were involved in the incident.
 - (b) Decisions made by the Disciplinary Panel may be appealed directly to the BCYSL Executive Board. A non-refundable \$200 fee must accompany a completed Appeal

Request Form within 10 days of the rendering of the Disciplinary Panel's decision. The forms and fees shall be sent directly to BCYSL's Secretary. No appeal will be acknowledge until forms and fees are received. Once received the BCYSL Executive Committee will select a date and time for a hearing before an Appeals Committee and will forward the information to the Town Coordinators involved in the incident. One coach listed on the current team's roster for each team and the Town Coordinator for each club shall be invited to attend the Appeal Hearing. A decision will be rendered by the BCYSL Appeals Committee within 48 hours after the Appeal Hearing and will be submitted to the two Town Coordinator(s) involved. (Please also refer to Bylaw Section XV. Appeals).

G. Minimum Team Strength

A team will be assessed a forfeit loss if after 15 minutes of the start of a scheduled match they have less than:

- 7 players (including goalkeeper) for an 11 v 11 match; or
- 5 players (including goalkeeper) for an 8 v 8 match; or
- 4 players (including goalkeeper) for a 6 v 6 match
- 4 players (excluding a goalkeeper) for a 4 v 4 match

If at any time during the match the number of available players should drop below these minimums then the match shall be immediately terminated and a forfeit loss given to the team in violation. If a minor injury occurs, the referee will wait until the player can resume play.

H. Field

- (i) The home team is expected to provide a properly lined field with 5' corner flags, properly anchored goals and secured goal nets.
- (ii) The BCYSL Executive Board suggests all fields carry an additional restraining line 3 yards off of the touchline on the spectator's side of the field extending from goal line to goal line.
- (iii) The BCYSL Executive Board also suggests a technical area for each team be laid out on the player's side of the field. Each technical area will be a box measuring 5 yards by 15 yards. This box will be located 3 yards off of the touchline and 10 yards from the halfway line.

I. Positioning

- (i) Players and coaches will remain within the boundaries of their respective technical areas at all times during the game unless substituting or unless they have been given permission by the referee to leave.
- (ii) All spectators must remain on the side of the field opposite the teams and behind the restraining line. No spectators are allowed behind either goal line.

J. Scoring Policy

No team is to win by more than a goal differential of 7. If a violation occurs, if the team's first offense, the coach of the team must speak with the League President and Head Referee. For any subsequent offense(s), the coach will need to appear before the BCYSL BOD at the next scheduled meeting and plead his/her case. If the coach does not attend the next scheduled meeting the coach will be suspended until he/she attends the next available meeting with the BCYSL BOD. The Scoring Policy will be signed by coaches and submitted with rosters.

- (i) Goal Kicks (U10 only) – On any goal kick, regardless of score, all players on defending team must retreat to passed the mid-field line into their own end of the field. Normal play resumes when the ball exits the penalty box, either on the ground or in the air. .
- (ii) If score differential reaches 5:
U10/U12/U14 – team with the lead must remove 1 player from the field (goalie/or field player). A Player may return once the goal differential reaches 4.
- (ii) If score differential reaches 7:

U10 – nothing additional

U12/U14 – team with the lead must remove a 2nd player. A player may return once the goal differential reaches 6.

VIII. Score Reporting

- A. Home Coach** – the Home Coach is responsible for providing a scorecard to be signed by both coaches and the Referee at the end of the match. It is the responsibility of the Home Coach to get the completed card to their respective Club Score Reporter.
- B. Club Score Reporter** - Each club will have a designated Score Reporter who will report all scores for its Club directly to BCYSL's ScoreKeeper. It is also the responsibility of the Club Score Reporter to report any Scoring Policy violations to BCYSL. The Club Score Reporter is responsible for collecting and keeping on file all score cards for each match. The score cards are to be kept on file for a minimum of one year. They will be requested by BCYSL in the event of a discrepancy and/or playoff tiebreaker situation. Each club's score reporter will report all of his/her club's scores via one e-mail, for both home and away games for each weekend of play, by the end of the day Tuesday or within 48 hours in the case of a make-up or rescheduled game. Failure to do so shall result in a \$10 non-reporting fine for each unreported score. An additional \$10 fine per unreported score shall be levied for each 7 days that passes after the first week. The BCYSL Score Keeper shall advise the BCYSL Treasurer to deduct the fines from the Town's Bond amount. There will be no score keeping for U-10 and U-8 teams.
- C. Forfeited Games** – All forfeited games will be recorded as 3-0, and a \$100.00 (See VI. E.) fee will be assessed to the forfeiting team. The fine will be reduced from \$100 to \$50 if the forfeiting team agrees to reschedule the game.

IX. Match Protests

Any protest will be referred to the Executive Board for review and decision. All protests must be entered within two days after the match. A special board meeting will be chaired by the President and must have at least two other board members present. The decision of the Board is final. Any protest must be accompanied with a \$100 fee from the club of the town. The fee will be returned only if the protest is upheld in whole or part.

X. Standings

- A.** Standings will be kept for age groups U-12 and above. .
- B.** Standings in each age group will be determined by points from highest to lowest.
- C.** During league play a team is awarded three points for a win and one point for a tie
- D.** If at the end of a season two teams are tied in points then the following tie breaking system will be used:
- (i) Head-to-Head Competition- If two teams played each other and split games and their records were otherwise identical they would still be considered tied;
 - (ii) Fewest Goals Allowed During Head-to-Head Competition - The team with fewest goals allowed; would win, if identical then tied;
 - (iii) Fewest Goals Allowed - The team with the fewest goals allowed during the course of the season would win; if identical then tied;
 - (iv) Card Accumulation – During the course of the season, each red card will carry 3 points and each yellow card will carry 1 point. The team with the fewest points in card accumulation would win; if identical then tied;
 - (v) Shut Outs – The team with the most shut-outs wins; if identical, then tied;

- (vi) Playoff Game – If the above tie breakers do not produce a winner, then an additional game will be scheduled by the BCYSL Executive Board following the last weekend of regular season play at a field to be determined by the Referee Assignor. No playoff game shall end in a tie. In the event the score is tied at the end of regulation, then one 15 minute overtime period will be played in its entirety. (No golden goal) If still tied after the first 15-minute overtime period, second 15-minute overtime will be played in its entirety. (No golden goal). If teams remain tied after regulation and overtime play, regular FIFA penalty kick procedures will be followed to determine a winner. These will take place immediately following the completion of overtime play.
- (vii) If a playoff game cannot be played in time for MTOC, then a coin toss will be performed by BCYSL's President at a location to be determined by BCYSL's President, Coaches welcome.

XI. MTOC Berths

- A. Qualification** - Only teams playing in BCYSL MTOC Division are eligible to receive MTOC berths from the League. Teams who cannot field a squad for MTOC are ineligible for a MTOC berth regardless of their regular season record and may not participate in any playoffs. Teams will represent BCYSL at MTOC in the order of their division standings based upon the number of berths awarded. In the event that a team drops out of the BCYSL playoffs or MTOC after being awarded a berth, the team next in the division standings will be awarded the berth.

If a team in the MTOC division, earns and then declines a berth to MTOC's, the club will be fined \$150.00, in addition to any fees they already contributed toward that berth.

XII. Fees

- A. Club Fees** - Fees for team entry and participation shall be decided by the BCYSL Executive Board prior to each season. Team entry fees shall be due and payable at the Team Registration Meeting. Town Coordinators shall pay all participation fees required by the BCYSL to the BCYSL Treasurer at the Team Registration Meeting before each season. If a Club's fees are not received by BCYSL's Treasurer prior to the opening day, games played will be recorded as forfeits (3-0). If fees still remain unpaid by the fourth Saturday of the season, the Club will be removed from BCYSL with the remaining games to be recorded as forfeits. If a Club is removed from BCYSL for this reason they will also be ineligible to participate in the subsequent season until reviewed by the BCYSL Executive Board.
- B. Performance Bond** - Each town shall post a bond of \$150 prior to the first game of the season, said bond to be forfeited to BCYSL if the team forfeits any game for any reason not permitted by these Bylaws. The President shall have sole discretion whether the conditions of these Bylaws have been satisfied and whether the bond is to be forfeited. All bonds not forfeited shall be retained by BCYSL Treasurer as the subsequent season's bond. In case of a forfeit of any portion of the performance bond due to fines, the amount forfeited will need to be repaid prior to the next season.
- C. Referees** - Teams will pay the officials directly before the start of each game with each team paying their half of the fees in cash. Any situation where an official is not properly paid before the game will result in a forfeit and the assessment of forfeit fees. BCYSL will pay for all referees involved in Playoff games. Official's fee structure is as follows:

- \$120 for all U18 – this will cover a 3 man system – each club is responsible for \$60
- \$100 for all U14, U16– this will cover a 3 man system – each club responsible for \$50
- \$40 for all U-12 each club is responsible for \$20 of this fee
- \$30 for all U-10 games – each club is responsible for \$15 of this fee
- \$25 for each Assistant Referee if requested or required

XIII. Referees

- A. Duties** - Referees are expected to arrive 20 minutes before the start of the match.
- (i) Officials/Coaches will defer to any medical personnel that attends to an injured player on the field.
 - (iii) Check rosters and passes at every game
 - (iv) Fill out and sign the scorecard at the end of the match (with all yellow and red card(s) noted with players name(s) and number(s); and
 - (v) Enforce all of the BCYSL Local Playing Rules and BCYSL's Zero Tolerance Policy, as well as, the FIFA Laws of The Game to the best of their ability; and
 - (vi) Submit ejected player passes to the Head Referee
 - (vii) Submit a written report for any Zero Tolerance Policy Violations to the Head Referee.
- B. System** - The referee system for officiating outdoor games U-16 and above and all playoff games is the diagonal system of control (DSC) consisting of three officials: one center referee and two assistant referees. When certified referees are unavailable as assistants, club or team linesmen will be utilized. Uncertified officials will not be paid. The referee system for officiating outdoor games U-14 and under is the single referee system.
- C. Reports** - Referee reports shall be submitted, if necessary, within 2 days of the game in question to the Head Referee for red cards, coach ejection and/or Zero Tolerance Violations. The Head Referee will choose to forward the report to the BCYSL Executive Board or resolve the issue him/herself, and/or with the Town Coordinators for the teams involved. The decision shall be sent to Town Coordinators and the BCYSL Executive Board. All yellow and red cards shall be reported on the scorecards and also reported directly to the Head Referee verbally or by e-mail within 2 days of the game.

XIV. Sportsmanship

- A. Zero Tolerance Policy** – BCYSL has jurisdiction over any MYSA or USYSA sanctioned event, including tournaments, relative to ZTP violations and enforcement.
- (i) Spectators

Spectators at games must remain behind the spectator control line (three yards from the sideline) and between the penalty areas (never behind the goals), and their vocal efforts should be limited to positive compliments to the participants. Under no circumstances should they attempt to coach or address remarks derogatory to players, coaches or the referee. The use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco products in the vicinity of the playing field during practices or games is strictly prohibited.

No parent or other spectator shall address the Referee or Assistant Referees at any time. This includes, but is not limited to, spectators making derogatory comments to players of either team, disputing calls during or after the game, remarks to the Referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play, yelling at the referee, EVER, including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game. The only allowable exceptions are responding to a referee who has initiated a conversation with a parent or spectator, pointing out an emergency and/or safety issue. In the opinion of the Referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the Referee may take any of the following actions:

 - (a) issue a verbal warning to the offending party;
 - (b) stop the game and instruct the parent / spectator to leave the field;
 - (c) stop the game and instruct the Coaches to direct the parent / spectator to leave the field; and/or
 - (d) abandon the game, if the spectator does not leave the field. The game will result

in a forfeit for the offending team.

- (ii) Players - Communications between players and referees are governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game and the BCYSL Zero Tolerance Policy.
- (iii) Coaches and Assistants – It is the responsibility of all Coaches and Assistants to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the Referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee, coaches, assistant coaches and spectators. Coaches may not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill intentioned remarks. Coaches may not offer dissent to any call made by the officials. Coaches are not to address the Referee during the game except to:
 - (a) respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation;
 - (b) point out emergency or safety issues;
 - (c) make substitutions;
 - (d) ask the referee to repeat a call;
 - (e) ask for the time remaining in the half; and/or
 - (f) ask a referee after a game, in a polite and constructive way, to explain a law or foul but not judgment calls made during the game. Polite and friendly concern can be exchanged with the referee. If the polite tone of the conversation changes, the Referee may abandon the exchange at any time. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed.In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:
 - (a) issue a yellow card to the offending Coach or Assistant Coach;
 - (b) issue a red card the offending Coach or Assistant Coach. The Coach or Assistant Coach will be required to leave the field. If there is no alternate Coach listed on the roster the game is abandoned and will result in a forfeit for the offending team; and/or
 - (c) abandon the game. If the Coach or Assistant Coach does not leave the field, the game will result in a forfeit for the offending team.
- (iv) Referees - It is the responsibility of the Referees to maintain the highest level of professionalism at all times. Further it is the responsibility of the Referees to control the game governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game with modifications as dictated by BCYSL's Local Playing Rules. Referees will:
 - (a) conduct themselves in a professional manner;
 - (b) answer questions posed to them as allowed per the above guidelines in a prompt and courteous manner except that Referees do not have to explain judgment calls made during the game; and
 - (c) maintain their integrity and independence by not being influenced by acquaintances or by the Coaches or Assistant Coaches.
- (v) Violations – All violations of this ZTP will be referred to Head Referee and/or the BCYSL Executive Board for review and possible disciplinary action, pursuant to Section VII. F. (iv) of these bylaws. Sanctions/disciplinary action may be imposed by BCYSL above and beyond any disciplinary action taken by tournaments or play outside of BCYSL.

B. Injuries During a Match - Code of conduct for injury on the field is for the team in control of the ball

to kick it out of bounds to stop play and for the opposing team to give it back to the team that kicked it out when play resumes. Officials/Coaches will defer to any medical personnel that attends to an injured player on the field.

XV. Appeals

- Actions by the BCYSL Executive Board or Head Referee may be appealed in accordance with the appeals procedures set forth in the BCYSL bylaws. Appeals procedures shall apply to all organizations, clubs, players, coaches and spectators of the BCYSL.
- No affiliate of BCYSL shall limit or deny a player, coach, team, etc., to appeal an action of the BCYSL Executive Board.
- An appeal must be made in writing within ten days of BCYSL Executive Board's ruling or action. An appeal must be accompanied by a nonrefundable \$200 check made payable to BCYSL or it will be considered incomplete. An appeal must also include seven copies of all documents pertinent to the appeal.
- When an appeal is made to the BCYSL Executive Board concerning an action they have taken, an Appeals Committee shall be established by the BCYSL Executive Board consisting of at least three (3) members, drawn from the Executive Board, Advisory Board and/or members of the soccer community. In the event a Disciplinary Panel decision results in an Appeal, no Board member who served on the Disciplinary Panel shall be appointed to the Appeals Committee.
- Members of the Appeals Committee will not include representation from the directly involved clubs or organizations, or anyone who has a personal interest or personal relationships with anyone involved.
- The BCYSL Executive Board shall determine the final composition of the Appeals Committee.
- The president of the BCYSL Executive Board shall chair the Appeals Committee but shall vote only in the case of a tie.
- The BCYSL Appeals Committee must hold a hearing, of which all parties have been notified and invited, within fourteen days of the receipt of a "completed" appeal. The BCYSL Appeals Committee will render a decision in writing to all parties to the appeal within seven days of the hearing.
- No party to an appeal may engage the services of an attorney. In order to participate in a hearing an attorney must be a direct party to the appeal and be acting in the capacity of a coach, player or administrator and not as an attorney.
- Once the appeal decision has been reached and rendered by the BCYSL Appeals Committee further appeal may be made to the MYSA Appeals Committee pursuant to the Bylaws and procedures of MYSA.

XVI. Travel

Any person traveling to fulfill BCYSL duties will be reimbursed for mileage at the current Federal amount. Any overnight stay will be provided with a \$25/day meal allowance.

XVII. Adoption Clause and Date

These Bylaws incorporate and abide by the BCYSL Constitution as written and executed on March 15, 2000 and any future alterations or modification made thereto.

These Bylaws were adopted as amended on February 25, 2014. These Bylaws are continually being reviewed and are subject to change.